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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-1304**

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
NATIONAL SECURITY, INTERNATIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT AND MONETARY POLICY  
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION &  
INFRASTRUCTURE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON AVIATION  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON RAILROADS, PIPELINES,  
AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

April 12, 2020

United States Environmental Protection Agency  
Administrator Andrew Wheeler  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Code 1101A  
Washington, DC 20460

Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5  
Regional Administrator Cathy Stepp  
77 W. Jackson Blvd  
Chicago, IL 60604

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency  
Director John J. Kim  
1021 North Grand Ave East, P.O. Box 19276  
Springfield, IL 62794

Chicago Department of Public Health  
Commissioner Allison Arwady  
333 S State St #200  
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Administrator Wheeler, Regional Administrator Stepp, Director Kim, and Interim Commissioner Arwady,

We write to express our collective concerns, including those from our community and local environmental protection organizations, about the demolition of the Crawford Coal Plant, located at W 35th Pl, Chicago, IL 60632. In the past year, each of our offices have engaged with your respective departments via letters, calls, and meetings to highlight the adverse impacts the demolition could have on the health and safety of our constituents living, working, and traveling in proximity to the site. Given the concentration of industrial assets that has historically compromised the air quality in Southwest Chicago and subsequently the health of community members, we emphasized the need for timely and transparent communication with residents about the demolition and requested assurance that the necessary safeguards would be put in place to mitigate any adverse impacts. The safety and health of our community must be the utmost priority, and we request the proper federal, state, and local agencies to investigate the unacceptable management of this demolition.

It is always essential to hold corporations accountable for the impacts they have on the communities in which they operate. To permit such a public health transgression in the midst of a pandemic that has caused debilitating respiratory complications for thousands of Illinois residents is inexcusable. Especially in neighborhoods like Little Village--where this pandemic has highlighted systemic health disparities--it is particularly vital to hold corporations accountable to the adverse conditions they cause. The release of pollutants from the demolition exacerbates the fundamental reasons why the plant was forced to shut down. To blatantly disregard community agreements and commitments to transparent communication is negligent and irresponsible.

The management of this demolition failed the thousands of families and essential workers who are putting their lives on the line to keep our city running during this pandemic. The level of disregard for the value of our lives is unconscionable. When it comes to the health and safety of our communities, it is imperative that regulatory, statutory, and procedural requirements and agreements are fully observed and strictly enforced.

We demand that any further demolition plans be halted until the pandemic no longer poses an additional risk for our community and the stay at home order is lifted. We also demand plans be halted until Hilco and the respective agencies with environmental oversight can provide a detailed and public plan on how they can complete the demolition of the site without causing additional adverse impacts to our community. In addition, we call for an immediate investigation of the surrounding areas to sample and identify the presence of any pollutants or contaminants as a result of the demolition. Moreover, we request a meeting with Hilco representatives and ask that they also make the appropriate representatives available to answer questions from community members and stakeholders.

Any company or corporation working in our communities is expected to comply not only with federal, state, and local policies, but also carry out their efforts with the best interest of the community in mind through transparency and honesty. Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to your response and cooperation. For any questions regarding this matter, please contact Patty Garcia with Congressman García's office at [Patty.Garcia@mail.house.gov](mailto:Patty.Garcia@mail.house.gov) or (773) 475-0833.

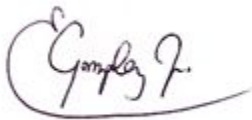
Sincerely,



Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
Member of Congress  
Illinois' 4th Congressional District



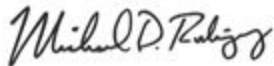
Celina Villanueva  
State Senator  
Illinois' 11<sup>th</sup> State Senate District



Edgar Gonzalez, Jr.  
State Representative  
Illinois' 21st State House District



Alma E. Anaya  
Commissioner  
Cook County's 7<sup>th</sup> District



Michael D. Rodriguez  
Alderman  
City of Chicago's 22nd Ward